

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 06813863 9



APV  
FIELD

FIELD

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation





THE FAMILY

OF

REV. DAVID D. FIELD, D.D.,

OF STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.

WITH

46  
THEIR ANCESTORS,

FROM THE TIME OF EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

BY HIS YOUNGEST SON,

HENRY M. FIELD.

NOT PUBLISHED, BUT PRINTED PRIVATELY FOR  
THE USE OF THE FAMILY.

51  
1860.



2842



FIELD.—This word, in the old English, as used by Alfred, Gower, Chaucer, &c., was always written *peld*, *feld*. It is merely the past participle *felled*, *fell'd* of the verb *to fell*, (*ƿællan*, *be-ƿælan*); and is written *feld* by all the old authors.

*Field-land* is opposed to *wood-land*, and means — Land where the trees have been *felled*.

“ In woodes, and in *Feldes* eke,  
 Thus robbery goth to seke  
     Where as he maie his purchas finde,  
 And robbeth men’s goodes aboute  
 In wood and *Felde*, where he goth oute.”

*Gower*, lib. fol. 116, pag. 2, col. 2.

“ In woode, in *Felde*, or in citee,  
 Shall no man stele in no wise.”

*Gower*, lib. 5, fol. 122, pag. 1, col. 1.

“Maple, thorne, beche, ewe, hasel, whipulere,  
Howe they were *felde* shal not be tolde for me.”

*Chaucer*, Knyghte's Tale, fol., pag. 2, col. 2.

“My blysse and my myrthe arne *felde*, sicke-  
nesse and sorrowe ben alwaye redy.”

*Testament of Loue*, boke 1, fol. 306,  
pag. 2, col. 1.

In the collateral languages, the German, the Dutch, the Danish, and the Swedish, the same correspondence exists between the equivalent verb and the supposed substantive.

German *fellen*, . . . . *Feld*.

Dutch *vellen*, . . . . *Veld*.

Danish *fælde*, . . . . *Felt*.

Swedish *fälla*, . . . . *Felt*.

*From the Diversions of Purley. By John  
Horne Tooke. Vol. 2, pp. 33 & 34.  
Philadelphia edition. 1807.*

## FIELDS IN ENGLAND.

---

THE name of Field is an ancient and honorable one in England. It has been suggested that it was originally the same as De la Field, in which case it may be traced back almost to the time of the Conquest, as the name of Robertus de la Felde, or Fielde, appears in Parliamentary writs as early as 1316, as one of the Lords of the township of Hardwicke, county of Gloucester ; and in the same year John de Felde was one of the Lords of the township of Chelsham, county of

Surrey. From this it is probable that the family was one of some distinction for several generations before. The French mode of writing the name would seem to point to a Norman origin. In proof of the identity of the two families, it is ascertained that the two names are found in the same parts of England, as for instance, in Hereford, a county very rich in ancient families, where is frequent mention of De la Felds and De la Feldes in the reign of Edward the First, and the Fields appear to be numerous there in Elizabeth's time. So in Gloucester, where De la Felde or Fielde appears in 1316, the name of Feld is found in the reign of Richard III., and Field in that of Elizabeth.

But one who spent several months in England especially to inquire into the ancestry of this family, and who examined with care the records in the Doctors Commons and

in the British Museum, says ; “ As to the suggestion that the present name of Field in England is a contraction of Delafield, or De la Feld, I find no evidence of it in any thing I have read ; nor is it suggested in Burke’s History of the Commoners of England, in the account of Delafield, of Fieldston. De la Feld is indeed changed to Delafield, but this name is continued down to the time that Burke’s work was published, in 1833. Besides, there is evidence that Field or Feild is an ancient name in England. It is said of Dr. Richard Field, chaplain to Queen Elizabeth, who was born in 1561, that ‘ he was of a family antient, and of good repute and esteem in the countrie.’ ” He was a native of the county of Hertford, being born about six miles from St. Albans, on an estate which had been in the family for some generations, for his biographer relates that he used often to

say, that out of the house in which he was born there had died but three housekeepers in 160 years, so much were his ancestors blessed with length of days. This was said while his father was living, and of course referred to his grandfather, and two generations before him, which would carry back the family into the fourteenth century. In the year 1454-1455, the 33d year of Henry VI., John Felde was sheriff of London. In Wood's *Athenæ*, another John Field or Feld is mentioned, as a citizen of London, who figured as a zealous Protestant, and was a great enemy to Sir Thomas More. In Philip Morant's *History and Antiquities of Essex*, occurs the name of still another John Field, who died in 1477, who held the manor of Stepyll or Stepyll Hall; and later appears in the same county, one "William Field, Esq., who married Arabella, daughter of Earl Rivers, by whom he had

Richard, an officer in the army ; William, of the Inner Temple, Esq., and Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Lloyd, Knight, one of the Barons of the Exchequer." Walter Field, clerk, is set down as "Provost of the Kyngge's College, Cambridge," in the reign of Edward IV., and another Walter Field, of Radley, county of Gloucester, died in the reign of Richard III.

In the sixteenth century the name is illustrated by a distinguished astronomer, John Field, who was the first to introduce the Copernican system into England. In the Gentleman's Magazine for May, 1834, is a biographical sketch of this eminent man, who is styled the Proto-Copernican of England, by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, keeper of one of the record offices, and a well-known antiquarian of London. Copernicus died in 1543, leaving as a legacy to the world his great work on

“The Revolutions of the Celestial Orbs,” in which he overthrew the system of Ptolemy, which had ruled for two thousand years. It embodied the labor of his life, and the first copy was brought to him on his death-bed. Attacking so boldly the general belief of mankind, the new system made its way very slowly among the scientific men of Europe, and it is a proof at once of the clearness of mind of this English mathematician, and of his intellectual intrepidity, that he saw so quickly its truth, and at once stood forth in its defence. In the year 1556, thirteen years after Copernicus breathed his last, John Field published the first astronomical tables that ever appeared in England, calculated on the basis of the new discoveries, and thus made the true system of the universe familiar to the dawning science of Great Britain. It was in recognition of this great service that he re-



ceived a patent, in 1558, the 5th and 6th of Philip and Mary, authorizing him "to bear as a crest over his family arms, what in the language of Heraldry would be described a dexter arm, habited Gules, issuing from clouds Proper, supporting an armillary sphere Or." His biographer says : " There was meaning, if not poetry, in this ; a red right arm issuing from the clouds, and presenting a golden sphere, intimated the splendor of the Copernican discovery, a light from the heavens above." \*

Richard Field was a distinguished divine,

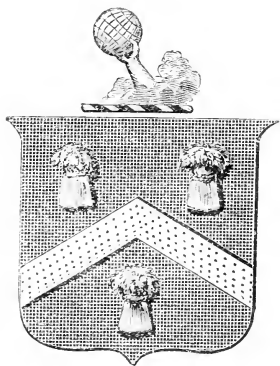
\* The original arms were, *Sable, a chevron between three wheat sheaves Argent*, for Hunter says in his sketch, " He was born of a father who had a right to coat-armor, the right being formally acknowledged by the Heralds in 1558, when they granted to him a crest and confirmed to him the arms he had inherited." " The coat granted, which was confirmed to him was, *Sable, a chevron between three wheat sheaves Argent.*"

and was made chaplain both to Queen Elizabeth and to King James. He was the author of "The Book of the Church," a work of note in its day, and which still keeps its place in the literature of the Church of England, as it was republished at Oxford in 1843, in 4 vols. 8vo. In 1753, John Field, of London, married Anne, daughter of Thomas Cromwell, who was a grandson of Oliver Cromwell.

These connections might be traced to any extent. From the wills preserved in the Doctors Commons, it appears that the name of Field was a familiar one two hundred years ago in London and in the vicinity, in Middlesex and Surrey, and in Kent. The records of Visitations in the Heralds' College show families of the name at that time entitled to wear coats of arms in the Counties of Hertford, Somerset, Gloucester, and the century before in Yorkshire. From the latter prob-

ably was descended Sir Charles Wilmer Field. In the Parishes of Middlesex appears the name of Sir Thomas Field; and Sir Charles Ventris Field, Knight, who died about the beginning of this century, and was buried in a cemetery north of Paddington street.

The name is still familiar both in London and in the Provinces. Many of the name appear in the Clergy List. In a book called Paterson's Roads (18th edition), are designated a number of country seats belonging to gentlemen of the name of Field in different parts of England; among them those of Joshua Field, long President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and John Wilmer Field, descended from an ancient family in Yorkshire, and having estates in the three Ridings, and seats at Helmsley Lodge and Heaton Hall.



Arms of John Field, the Astronomer.

## ANCESTORS IN AMERICA.

---

THE FAMILY, whose line is here traced, is of English descent, but has been established in America for more than two centuries. It runs back directly to one who came to New England not more than a dozen years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, who was himself a Puritan, and bore the good old Scriptural name of Zechariah. A few years later, two brothers, William and John Field, appear at Providence, from whom are descended the large number of Fields in the

State of Rhode Island. In 1644 Robert Field came to the Massachusetts colony, and the year after removed to Flushing, on Long Island, where with others he obtained a patent of land from the Dutch governor at New Amsterdam, as New York was then called. He became the ancestor of the Fields of Long Island and New Jersey.

But ZECHARIAH FIELD, as he was the first to make his home in the New World, has the most numerous descendants, being the ancestor of a large proportion of the families of the name of Field, not only in New England, but in the United States. He came to America about 1630 or 1632. Much pains have been taken to ascertain from what part of England he came. At the Doctors Commons in London, there is entered a brief reference in October, 1665, to the estate of

one Zechariah Field, who is mentioned as having "died beyond the seas," but no clue is given to the place of his earlier residence in England. The late General Field, of Bennington, Vermont, says, that he emigrated from Hadleigh, in the county of Suffolk, which is confirmed by the fact that the name of Hadley was afterwards given to a town in which he was one of the first settlers in America. He came first to Boston, but remained in the colony of Massachusetts only a few years. As early as 1639 he removed through the wilderness to Hartford, being one of the first settlers on the Connecticut River. His house stood on Sentinel Hill, at the north end of Main street, on or near the corner, north-west from the present North Congregational church. It appears from the ancient town records that he owned large tracts of land, portions of which are now in the heart

of the city. One of these is crossed by Asylum street, and is adorned by some of the most beautiful residences in Hartford. Here he remained about twenty years, but after the death of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, the first minister of Hartford, in July 1647, dissensions arose in the church, and as all attempts at reconciliation proved unsuccessful, a number of settlers purchased of the Nonotuck Indians, in December, 1658, about nine miles square of land lying north of Mount Holyoke, and in the two years following, sixty proprietors, with their families, moved up the Connecticut valley and took possession. More than forty settled in Hadley and thirteen in Northampton, and in Hatfield, which was a part of Hadley. Mr. Field settled in Northampton, probably in 1659. His house stood on or near the site of the residence of the late Isaac C. Bates, United States senator from Massa-



chusetts. Two years after, in Jan. 1661, he was appointed, with five others, a committee "to lay out a tract of land on the west side of Connecticut River for house lots;" that is, in that part of Hadley which is now Hatfield. For it was the custom at this time, both in Massachusetts and Connecticut, to lay out large townships along this, the great river of New England. The valley of the Connecticut was the Paradise of the colonists. Mr. Field received a grant of land in the new township, and removed to Hatfield, where he died in June, 1666. His wife survived him. They had five children,

Mary Field,	} All born probably in Hartford, and between the years 1643 and 1658.
Zechariah,	
John,	
Samuel,	
Joseph,	

ZECHARIAH FIELD, JUN., the eldest son, who inherited from his father the old homestead in Northampton, married Sarah Webb, daughter of John Webb, an early settler in Northampton, December 17, 1668. They had three children, all sons :

Zechariah Field, born Sept. 12, 1669.

Ebenezer       “       “    Oct. 31, 1671.

John            “       “    Dec. 8, 1673.

The family lived in Northampton until after the birth of these children, and then removed to Deerfield, with the family of Mr. Joshua Carter, who had married the only sister, Mary Field. Deerfield was then on the extreme northern frontier, and was constantly exposed to incursions of savages. A year or two after, September 18, 1675, occurred the terrible massacre of Bloody Brook, in

which Captain Lathrop and his whole company were destroyed. In this attack Mr. Carter was killed. This tragedy led to the desertion of Deerfield. The settlers fled to Northampton and other places.

The next year after the massacre the names of two of the brothers, Samuel and John Field, appear among the volunteers in a body of troops that marched against the Indians, and fought in the battle at Turner's Falls, May 18, 1676. It was probably in revenge for his activity against them, that twenty-one years later, June 24, 1697, Samuel Field was shot dead in his cornfield by a party of savages, such as were always lurking about the settlements. Thus, of five children of the first Zechariah Field, one son was killed by the Indians, and the only daughter was left a widow by the murder of her husband.

The second Zechariah Field, as we have seen, fled from Deerfield after the massacre of Bloody Brook, and probably resided in Northampton for the next seven years. It was not till 1682 that it was deemed safe to return. The family then ventured back to its former home—the father, with his three sons.

It was probably to escape the constant alarms to which they were exposed in this frontier settlement, that the second son, Ebenezer, as early as 1696, left Deerfield and removed to Guilford, Conn., on the shore of Long Island Sound. The result showed the wisdom of his timely departure from a region encompassed with dangers. For a few years later another incursion of savages swept the devoted town, and left his younger brother desolate. In 1704, on the last day of winter, February 29th, a band of French and Indians attacked Deerfield and burnt the town, and

such of the inhabitants as were not massacred, were carried away captives. Of the family of John Field, one daughter, Sarah, was killed on the spot, and his wife and daughter Mary, and son John, were taken captives and dragged through the wilderness to Canada. His wife and son were soon ransomed and restored to their friends, when the family, no longer willing to be exposed to such perils, abandoned the new settlement, and followed their elder brother to Guilford, Conn. The daughter, Mary, strange to say, became enamored of the wild free life of the woods, and married an Indian chief, and remained in their villages. She afterwards returned with her savage lord to visit her relatives in the white settlements, but no persuasions could induce her to leave her husband.

EBENEZER FIELD, on his removal from Deerfield to Guilford, settled in the eastern part of the town, that which is now called Madison. Here, though less exposed, he was not free from danger. All along the Sound roving bands of savages infested the white settlements, and it was necessary to be always prepared against a sudden attack. Mr. Field was a sergeant, and probably had the command of a few men who were organized to protect the settlement. He was married January 14, 1697, by Andrew Leet, a member of the Governor's council, to Mary Dudley, or Dudley, as the name is now spelled. He died May 17, 1713, aged 41, leaving a wife and seven children :—

David Field, born Dec. 2, 1697.

Mary “ “ Nov. 15, 1699.

Samuel “ “ Jan. 12, 1704.

Ebenezer Field.

Joareb       “    born March 2, 1711.

Ann           “    “    March 22, 1713.

Zechariah   “    “

DAVID FIELD, the eldest child of Ebenezer Field, settled in the north part of Madison, in a district which, as it was yet uncleared, was called “The Woods.” This was probably as early as 1720. Here he soon after erected a framed house of two stories, which was literally founded on a rock, and which is standing to this day. He married three times, and had eleven children, viz.: by his first wife, (Mary Bishop,) four; Sarah, Benjamin, David, and Ichabod; by his second, (Catharine Bishop,) Anna, Samuel, and Ebenezer. His third wife was Abigail Stone, of Guilford, a widow with two children. She was married

to Mr. Field February 20, 1742, and by her he had four children :—

Timothy Field, born March 12, 1744.

Abigail and }  
Catharine, } twins, Aug. 19, 1745.

Mindwell,        born Oct. 14, 1747.

The father of this large family was a man of great uprightness, of the strictest integrity, and of devout piety. He died Feb. 6, 1770, in the 73d year of his age. He was the owner of large tracts of land in Madison and Killingworth.

TIMOTHY FIELD, the eldest child of David Field by his third wife, but his youngest son, is still well remembered by the old townspeople of Madison, although more than forty years have passed since his death, which was



on the 1st day of January, 1818. He lived on the old homestead, which he inherited from his father. He was a very prominent man in all the affairs of the town, and was highly respected for his energy and public spirit. He also took an active part in the War of the Revolution. In 1776 he joined the seventh regiment raised in Connecticut for the defence of the State, and was appointed its serjeant-major. He was with the army of Washington, when it was stationed on the upper part of New York Island, between Fort Washington and the East River, to watch the British troops which then held the city, and fought in the battle of White Plains.

But the principal service which he rendered during the war, was at home, in guarding the coast, which was exposed to incursions from the enemy. In April, 1781, a company was raised under the authority of the State, to

serve as a coast guard to protect the shores of Guilford and Madison, a distance of twelve or fifteen miles. Of this troop Peter Vail was appointed captain, and Mr. Field the lieutenant. The company was posted in small detachments at different points along the coast, the soldiers relieving each other from day to day, and concentrating wherever danger threatened.

These precautions were not unnecessary. A month or two after, on the 18th of June, two armed brigs and a schooner appeared off Leete's Island, near Guilford Harbor, having on board a body of Refugees or Tories. They landed about one hundred and fifty men, who immediately proceeded to the dwelling-house of Mr. Daniel Leete, which they set on fire, with two barns, which were entirely consumed. The coast guards were mostly away at other points. The approach of the enemy was first

discovered by the women, who instantly took the alarm, and seizing their children fled to the woods. The enemy were so near that they had barely time to escape. The alarm soon spread through the town, and the sturdy farmers were seen hurrying from all quarters with their muskets to the point of attack. Captain Vail pressed forward with his men towards Leete's Island, but as he was on foot and in feeble health, and the weather was extremely hot, he soon became completely exhausted and unable to act, so that the command fell on Lieutenant Field, under whom the company attacked the enemy with great spirit, killing six or seven of them and driving the rest to their boats. Captain Vail died a fortnight after, and Lieutenant Field succeeded to the command, and continued the captain of the military company of Madison for many years.

Captain TIMOTHY FIELD married Anna Dudley, daughter of David Dudley and Anna (Tallmann) Dudley, of North Madison, Nov. 27, 1767, and had eight children, six daughters and two sons :

Mina Field, born Oct. 3, 1769. Died Jan. 26, 1770.

Lois “ “ Jan. 29, 1771.

Mina, 2d, “ “ March 23, 1773.

Timothy “ “ Sept. 28, 1775.

Mary “ “ Nov. 19, 1778.

David Dudley May 20, 1781.

Abigail “ “ April 7, 1784.

Anna “ “ April 6, 1787.

Captain Field died Jan. 1, 1818, in his 74th year, and his widow October 7, 1819, in her 68th year. She was a woman remarkable for her piety and usefulness.

The Dudley family, which here unites with that of the Fields, was an old and honored family in the colony. The name of Dudley is one of great distinction in England, but the American branch has been settled here for more than two centuries. In the Parish records of Ockley, England, is recorded the marriage of William Dudley to Jane Lutman, August 24, 1636, by Rev. Henry Whitfield, with whom they came to America, and settled in Guilford. From them are descended all the Dudleys of that town, and also many of the name in different parts of this country.

The family into which Mr. Field married, on the mother's side, was descended from two of the early governors of New Haven colony. His wife's mother, before her marriage to Mr. Dudley, was a Tallman, and *her* mother a Morrison, the daughter of Governor Jones, and the granddaughter of Governor Eaton.

Of the five daughters who lived to grow up, four were married in their native town of Madison ; two, the eldest and the youngest, Lois and Anna, to persons of the same name, Wilcox ; Mina, to Mr. Luther Dowd, and Mary to Mr. John Meigs ; and their descendants are numerous there and in other places, though as they bear other names than that of Field, it does not come within the design of this brief sketch to trace them farther. Of these four sisters, all but one, the youngest, Anna, are dead ; and of their four husbands, not one survives. The other daughter, Abigail, was married to Mr. Thomas Beals, of Canandaigua, N. Y., formerly a merchant, and now a banker, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Western New York. Mr. Beals and his wife are both living. They too number a large family.

The two sons both became clergymen. Rev. TIMOTHY FIELD was fitted for college by his pastor, Rev. Dr. John Elliott, and entered Yale College in 1793. He was distinguished by his correct moral habits, close application to study, and fine scholarship. When his class was graduated in 1797, he delivered an oration on "Theoretical Philosophy," which the historians of his class, Hon. Thomas Day, of Hartford, long Secretary of the State of Connecticut, and the Rev. James Murdock, D. D., say, "will be remembered as long as any of his hearers survive." One who was present says, "I have attended many commencements, but I never saw the audience so much moved and gratified as on that occasion." It was afterwards published in Boston. He studied theology with President Dwight, and was licensed to preach by the

Eastern Association of New Haven County, May 28, 1799. On the recommendation of President Dwight, he was invited to Canandaigua, N. Y., then a small town, where a church had recently been organized of 18 members. He was installed pastor February 27, 1800, and was dismissed about June 1805. January 30, 1807, he was settled again in Westminster, Vermont, (the West parish,) where he remained the pastor twenty-eight years, till 1835. His ministry here was eminently useful. Though the parish was not large, he received into the church 375 persons. After his dismissal he continued for a few years to live among the people, by whom he was greatly respected and beloved. In 1830 he was a member of the Convention for altering the Constitution of Vermont. He died Feb. 22d, 1844.

The beauty of his character and his cheer-



ful piety are well indicated in a sentence or two from a letter, written after his death by the minister who succeeded him as pastor of the church at Westminster. It is addressed to his son : “ I need not tell you that I feel the loss of your father much. I can mourn with you, for he was a father to me. While he lived, I always knew where I could spend an hour happily and profitably. His cheerful countenance has often made me glad. There could be no melancholy where he was. I enjoyed his society much, and hope long to remember his instructions and profit by his example. During the last year of his life he had often spoken to me of his departure from the world. He viewed death as near. It seemed a pleasure to him to think of it, and his countenance glowed with joy while he conversed about heaven. He once said to me, ‘ My bald head and gray locks are my

witnesses that I am near to heaven.' He was near, nearer than I then thought, but not nearer than he desired."

Mr. Field was twice married : first, to Wealthy Bishop, of Madison, by whom he had seven children, three of whom died in infancy, and one at the age of ten ; and second, to Mrs. Susannah Lusk, whose maiden name was Pomeroy, and who was a native of Northampton. By her he had three children. Of these ten children but six lived to mature years :

Alfred Bishop Field,	born	Oct. 6,	1801.
Mary	" "	Sept. 23,	1807.
Timothy	" "	June 8,	1811.
Sereno and )	" "	Aug. 19,	1815.
Lorenzo	)		
William	" "	Nov. 17,	1817.

Alfred B. Field spent the greater part of his life in Canandaigua, where he was a prosperous merchant, and was much respected for his integrity and uprightness of character. He died February 23d, 1858.

He was twice married. First, to Eliza Hosmer Martin, October 2, 1828, who died in February following. His second wife was his cousin, Ann Field Beals, daughter of Thomas Beals, Esq. They were married May 7, 1833, and had seven children :

Henry Martin Field,	born	Jan. 2,	1834.
Ann Eliza	“	“	Nov. 9, 1835.
Margaret Brown	“	“	Nov. 17, 1837.
			died Mar. 13, 1841.
Lucilla Bates	“	born	Nov. 3, 1839.
Mary Elizabeth	“	“	Jan. 23, 1842.
Louisa Howell	“	“	Oct. 23, 1845.
Alfred Bishop	“	“	Jan. 25, 1849.

Mary Field, the only daughter of Rev. Timothy Field, was married August 15, 1826, to Dr. Hervey <sup>Orcutt</sup> ~~Oleot~~, a physician now residing at Westhampton, Mass. They have had three children :

Lyman → Mary Elizabeth Olcott, born June 15, 1829.  
 Susan Ellen " " March 2, 1832.  
 died, Sept. 29, 1835.  
 Ellen Antoinette born Sept. 10, 1839.

Of the other brothers, Timothy is settled in Indiana ; Sereno lives in Skeneateles, New York ; and Lorenzo and William remain in the old home of the family in Westminster, Vermont.

Henry M. Field, of Canandaigua, eldest son of Alfred B. Field, was married to Fannie A. Warren, of New York, Oct. 6, 1859.

FAMILY OF REV. DR. FIELD.

---

REV. DAVID D. FIELD, the sixth generation in this country, and the second son of Capt. Timothy Field, was fitted for college by Rev. John Elliott, D. D., of Madison. His fellow pupil, and afterwards his classmate and room-mate at college, was the late distinguished Jeremiah Evarts. He entered Yale College in 1798, and graduated with honor in 1802. While in college, and for some months after, the intervals of study were occupied in teaching school, by which he obtained means to complete his education. At that time there were no theological seminaries in the country, and students of divinity pur-

sued a course of study with some eminent minister. Thus President Dwight, Dr. Charles Backus, of Somers, and Dr. Emmons, of Franklin, Mass., at this time gave instruction in theology, as the celebrated Dr. Belamy and Dr. Smalley had done a generation before. Mr. Field went with several of his class to Somers, and there studied theology with Dr. Backus. He was licensed to preach by the Association of New Haven East, in September, 1803.

In going to Somers, Mr. Field found another blessing than that of theological instruction, for there he met his future wife, a young lady who bore the name of Dickinson. She too was descended from a Puritan stock, her family tracing back their ancestry in a direct line to Thomas Dickinson, who came from England and settled in Rowley, Mass., in 1643. Her father is still remembered by

the older inhabitants of Somers as Captain Noah Dickinson, who had served as an officer under General Putnam, in the old French war, and afterwards in the war of the Revolution, and who at the return of peace settled down to the quiet life of a farmer. This daughter was born October 1, 1782. It was the fashion of those primitive times to give to daughters the names of the Christian graces, which of course they were expected to exemplify, such as Faith, Hope, Patience, and Charity. Thus upon this daughter of the Puritans was bestowed the meek name of Submit. In after years her children sometimes playfully told her that this appellation was not the most appropriate, since she had a due share (but not a whit too much) of true womanly spirit. She was married when she had just reached the age of twenty-one, Oct. 31, 1803. And truly, if a good wife is from the Lord, no one

ever had more reason to recognize a special Providence in the gift than the young minister, who took from her father's house this youthful bride, and in his one-horse chaise drove over the hills and valleys of Connecticut to his modest parsonage. From that day more than fifty-six years have passed, during which she has been the light and joy of his home. Whatever of success or prosperity has attended the family, has been in a great measure owing to her unselfish spirit, that made every sacrifice for the education of her children, to her perpetual buoyancy of temper, that diffused sunshine through her home—to her womanly patience, courage, and hope. For this her children rise up to-day and call her blessed. But this is anticipating.

As soon as he was licensed to preach, Mr. Field was invited to several places. He preached a few weeks at Somers, where he was



urged to remain. But as he expected to marry in the town, and remembered that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, he thought it better to accept an invitation elsewhere. He accordingly decided in favor of Haddam, in Middlesex county, on the Connecticut River, where he supplied the church for five months, according to the New England custom of preaching for a time as a candidate, and was ordained as the pastor, April 11, 1804. Here he remained just fourteen years, and was then dismissed at his own request on the 11th day of April, 1818, the anniversary of his ordination.

Upon his dismissal he had but little rest, for almost immediately he started off under an appointment of the old Missionary Society of Connecticut, to the new settlements on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and on the banks of the Oswego River. The country was

then a wilderness, and he preached in log-houses and under the shade of trees. This frontier had been the scene of constant fighting during the then recent war, and as he rode along he visited several of the fields of battle. He travelled as far west as Buffalo. This town had been burnt by the British during the war, and had not recovered from the blow. It was a small straggling village, running up some distance from the lake. But there was not a church in the place, and he preached in the court-house. About thirty years after he again passed through Buffalo, on his way to St. Louis, and found that the frontier settlement had grown to be a great city. On asking how many churches there were, he was told that they were "innumerable."

This missionary tour lasted five months. On his return he passed through Stockbridge,

Mass. As he arrived on a Saturday night, he was requested by the people to remain and preach the next day; as their pastor, the celebrated Stephen West, worn out with age and feebleness, had been obliged to retire from further active labor. He accordingly preached, and then they besought him to stay another sabbath, and then another, until he felt obliged to break away and return home to his family. The same spring (1819) he spent a few weeks in North Haven, where the venerable Dr. Benj. Trumbull, the historian of Connecticut, was about to give up his labors, and had fixed his eye upon Mr. Field as his successor. He found in this younger minister much that was congenial. He spoke highly of his public services, and at the same time thought he had a taste for American history, and thus would continue the work which he had begun. But this kind and friendly wish

of the good old man was not to be realized. Before his church had time to act, an invitation from Stockbridge was received, so pressing, that Mr. Field decided to return. He accordingly returned to Stockbridge, and after preaching three months, was settled as pastor, August 25, 1819. Here he remained nearly eighteen years, when he was called back to his old parish in Haddam, Conn., where the church had become divided, and it seemed probable that he alone could unite them. Accordingly he asked a dismissal from Stockbridge, and was reinstalled at Haddam, April 11th, 1837, just thirty-three years from his first ordination in that town, and in the same church. That year he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Williams College. At Haddam he remained seven years, when the parish, which covered a large township, was divided into two, and he took charge of the

new church at Higganum, two miles north of the old church, and there remained about seven years more. In 1848 he went with his son Stephen to England, and spent several months in London. He also visited Paris, passing through Belgium and the North of France.

Dr. Field had now become well stricken in years and worn down with hard service, and his children desired that he would begin to think of rest. And as Stockbridge was the home of the family, where two sons had been married and one still lived, they desired him to return there to spend the evening of his days. At their earnest request he therefore relinquished a longer pastoral charge, and in the spring of 1851, returned to Stockbridge, where he and his wife are still living in the old homestead, enjoying a green old age.

Few men have led a more active and laborious life. For nearly half a century he

was pastor of a church ; and his preaching labors have continued for a still longer time. He has always been a laborious student and a faithful and unwearied pastor. After he removed from Haddam to Stockbridge, he re-wrote nearly all his sermons. He generally preached three times on the Sabbath, and often during the week, besides innumerable sermons and addresses at funerals and on various public occasions. A number of his discourses were published ; two delivered at ordinations ; one preached at Hartford, in 1816, before the Connecticut Society for the promotion of Good Morals, and another in the same year, at Middletown, on the day of the execution of Peter Lung, delivered, according to an old Puritan custom, in presence of the condemned criminal.

Besides all these professional duties, he found time for other studies and writing.

He was always much interested in historical researches, especially in gathering up the local histories of towns and churches, and in studying the memorials of the worthies of New England. He was an active member, and at one time Vice-President of the Historical Society of Connecticut, and a corresponding member of the Historical Societies of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, and made many contributions to the histories which he so diligently studied. In 1819 he published a History of the County of Middlesex, Connecticut, and after his removal to Stockbridge, he prepared, with the assistance of several clergymen, and especially of Professor Dewey, of Williams College, a History of the County of Berkshire, a volume of nearly 500 pages, which was published in 1829. Some years after, a Historical Address, which he delivered at Middletown, Conn., on the second Centen

nial Anniversary of the settlement of that town, grew into a book of about 300 pages. He has also published since the Genealogy of the Brainerd Family, a volume of 300 pages octavo.

Dr. Field was always a man of peace, and could not easily be drawn into controversy. But twice in his whole life was he forced into any public discussion. Once he came out in defence of the Sabbath, in the county paper, the Pittsfield Sun, against the noted Elder Leland, of Cheshire, who was famous, both as an eccentric Baptist preacher and as a democratic politician. He also published, at the request of the ministers of the county, in the New York Observer and the Boston Recorder, an article "On the evils of hasty and extravagant accounts of the results of protracted meetings." This was aimed at a class of itinerants, who were then traversing the



country, and committing every species of folly and fanaticism. Of course it provoked a great outcry on the part of those whose extravagances it held up to merited rebuke. But it was generally approved by wise and good men in all parts of the country, and did much to abate the evil which it so clearly exposed.

Dr. Field was married, as already stated, to Submit Dickinson, of Somers, Conn., Oct. 31, 1803. They have had ten children, nine of whom lived to manhood or womanhood :

David Dudley, born	Feb. 13, 1805.
Emilia Ann	“ Feb. 22, 1807.
Timothy Beals	“ May 21, 1809.
Matthew Dickinson	June 26, 1811.
Jonathan Edwards	July 11, 1813.
Stephen Johnson, 1st	July 11, 1815.
	died Dec. 25, same year.
Stephen Johnson, 2d,	Nov. 4, 1816.

Cyrus West	born	Nov. 30, 1819.
Henry Martyn,	“	April 3, 1822.
Mary Elizabeth,	“	Sept. 7, 1823.

The eldest seven of these children were born in Haddam, and the youngest three in Stockbridge. Four of the sons were educated at Williams College: David Dudley, Jonathan, Stephen, and Henry. Of these the first three became lawyers, and the fourth a clergyman. Of the other three sons, Timothy, Matthew, and Cyrus, the first became an officer in the Navy, the second a civil engineer, and the third a merchant, and projector of the Atlantic Telegraph. The daughters, Emilia and Mary, married, one a missionary and the other a merchant. The following are brief notices of these seven sons and two daughters:

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, the eldest son, received the rudiments of his education, like all boys in that part of the country, in the common school of his native town. At the age of nine he was transferred to his father's study, where he learned Latin, Greek, and mathematics. Taken at fourteen from Had-dam to Stockbridge, he was prepared for college in the academies of that town and of Lenox. In 1821, when he was sixteen, he entered Williams- College. On leaving that institution in 1825, he began the study of law at Albany, in the office of Harmanus Bleecker, which he completed in New York, in the office of Henry and Robert Sedgwick. He was admitted an attorney and solicitor in 1828, and counsellor in 1830, and immediately entered upon practice in New York, where he has continued to reside for 30 years.

In May, 1836, three months after the death of his first wife, he went to Europe, where he remained fifteen months, visiting in that time almost every country, from England to the far interior of Russia, and from Norway to Italy. Notes of these foreign wanderings were afterwards published in the Democratic Review [for 1839 and '40] in five "Sketches over the Sea."

Returning to New York, he resumed the duties of his profession. Besides a large and engrossing practice, he engaged with great earnestness, at an early day, in the work of Law Reform. In 1839 he published his first essay on the subject, being in the form of a letter to Gulian C. Verplanck, on the Reform of the Judicial System of the State. In 1842 he prepared three bills, one for the more simple and speedy administration of justice in civil cases in the Courts of Common

Law ; another for the same in the Courts of Equity ; the third to simplify indictments. These were introduced into the legislature by Mr. John L. O'Sullivan, member from New York, accompanied by an explanatory letter from Mr. Field, all of which were printed among the legislative documents of that year. In 1846 he published a series of articles in the Evening Post, on the Reorganization of the Judiciary, which were afterwards collected in a pamphlet. Upon the adoption of the new State Constitution in 1847, he published another pamphlet, entitled, "What shall be done with the practice of the courts? Shall it be wholly reformed?" in which he recommended the abolition of the forms of action, and the union of legal and equitable remedies in a uniform course of procedure. On the 29th of September, 1847, he was appointed by the legislature one of the Commissioners

on Practice and Pleadings. On the 29th of February, 1848, these Commissioners submitted to the legislature their first report, which was speedily passed into law, and has ever since been known as the Code of Procedure of the State of New York. By this work legal and equitable remedies were assimilated, and the forms of action were abolished. All the rights of the parties in controversy were thenceforward to be adjudged in one action, there being no longer need of a suit at law for one part of a litigation, and a suit in equity for the other. In 1849 the Commissioners presented further reports, being the second, third, and fourth; and in January, 1850, they finished their work, and submitted a complete Code of Civil Procedure and a complete Code of Criminal Procedure.

The effect of these legal reforms has been very great, not only in the State of New

York, but throughout the country, the new code having been already adopted in many States. It has also attracted great attention beyond the sea, so that when in 1850 Mr. Field revisited Europe, he found himself at once brought into communication with the most eminent law reformers and jurists of Europe, both English and Continental.

In December, 1850, he published several articles in the Evening Post, on the "Completion of the Code," which were republished in pamphlet form. These were followed by five Law Reform Tracts. No. 1. Administration of the code. No. 2. Evidence on the operation of the code. No. 3. Codification of the common law. No. 4. Competency of parties as witnesses for themselves; and, No. 5. A short manual of pleading under the code.

In 1857 he was appointed by the legislature one of the Commissioners to prepare a Political

code, a Penal code, and a Civil code ; works designed, with the codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure, to contain the whole body of the law, not only that which is written, but that which hitherto has been known as the unwritten, or common law. These Commissioners submitted, in 1858, an analysis of their whole work, and in 1859 the Political code complete.

Besides these numerous papers on Law Reform, he has been an occasional contributor to reviews. In 1841 he paid a warm tribute in the pages of the *New York Review* to his friend, the lion-hearted William Leggett. In 1842, '3, '4, and '5, he published in the *Democratic Review* articles on the Rhode Island question, on American Names, on Mr. Cost Johnson's *Forlorn Hope*, a notice of Duer on Marine Insurance, and articles on the study and practice of the law, on the law



of progress of the race, the Oregon question, and British reviews on Oregon, &c., &c.

He has also delivered many public addresses, among which were two before legal institutions, one before the Law School of the University of Albany, in February, 1856, and the other on the opening of the Law School of the University of Chicago, in September, 1859. He has never turned aside from his profession to enter political life, though as a citizen he has taken great interest in political affairs, written many political articles, and made speeches before conventions and popular meetings. The questions in which he has taken most interest, have been the Annexation of Texas, the admission of California, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the struggle for the mastery of Kansas, in all which he has been on the side of Freedom, and opposed to the extension of Slavery.

Mr. Field has been twice married. His first wife was Jane Lucinda Hopkins, daughter of John Hopkins, of Stockbridge, to whom he was married Oct. 26, 1829. They had three children :

Dudley Field,   born   Nov. 28, 1830.

Jeanie Lucinda   “     Oct. 9, 1833.

Isabella           “     April 3, 1835.

Mrs. Field died of consumption in Stockbridge, Jan. 21, 1836 ; her youngest child died in March following. The mother and the daughter are buried in the same grave.

Mr. Field married his second wife Sept. 2, 1841, Mrs. Harriet Davidson, the widow of James Davidson, Esq.

Dudley Field was graduated at Williams College in 1850 ; travelled abroad for a year and a half ; afterwards studied law in New York ; was admitted to the bar in 1854, and is now a partner with his father.

EMILIA ANN FIELD, besides such advantages for education as were to be had in the towns where her parents lived, studied at the seminaries in Westfield, Mass., and Wethersfield and Litchfield, Conn. She was married to Rev. Josiah Brewer, a missionary in the East, Dec. 1, 1829.

Mr. Brewer was graduated at Yale College in 1821, and was for two years a tutor in that institution. He studied theology at Andover, and went out, under an appointment of the American Board, and of the Boston Female Jews Society, to inquire into the condition of the Jews in Turkey. From Smyrna and Constantinople he went to Greece at the time of the battle of Navarino. As the war of the Greek revolution, which was then raging with great fury, interfered

with immediate missionary labor, he returned to the United States after an absence of two years. The fruit of his observations was given to the public in a volume on Turkey. His connection with the Board was soon terminated, owing to some differences of opinion as to the missionary policy to be pursued. But he was immediately engaged to resume his labors abroad by a Ladies' Greek Association, which was formed in New Haven, Conn. He accordingly returned to the East, and took up his residence in Smyrna, where he remained nine years, and where his memory is still gratefully cherished. In 1838 he closed his missionary labors, and returned finally to America. He now resides with his family at Stockbridge, and preaches at the church in Housatonic. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer have seven children :—

Henrietta Whitney, born	Jan. 20, 1831.
Fisk Parsons	“ Oct. 19, 1832.
Emilia Field	“ Sept. 29, 1834.
David Josiah	“ June 20, 1837.
Marshall Bidwell	“ Jan. 28, 1840.
Mary Adele	“ Nov. 21, 1842.
Elizabeth Hale	“ Dec. 1, 1847.

Henrietta W. Brewer was married to Lawson Bennet Bidwell, of Stockbridge, Nov. 18, 1857. They have one child, a son :

Lawson Brewer Bidwell, born Nov. 19, 1858.

Fisk P. Brewer was graduated at Yale College in 1852 ; was a tutor one year at Beloit College, in Wisconsin, and afterwards for three years at Yale, from 1855 to 1858 ; then spent a year abroad, chiefly in the East, studying Greek at Athens ; visiting also

Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Constantinople, and returning through France and Germany. He reached America in July, 1859, and was married to Miss Julia M. Richards, of New Haven, August 24th. They live in New Haven.

David J. Brewer was graduated at Yale College in 1856 ; studied law with his uncle, David Dudley Field, in New York, and since his admission to the bar has removed to Kansas.

TIMOTHY B. FIELD was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy in 1824, and the winter following was ordered to the Navy Yard at Charlestown, where he spent a year, learning the duties of his profession. He then sailed for the Mediterranean, in the United States ship Warren, Captain Kearney, which for several years was engaged in pursuing the Greek pirates in the Archipelago. From the Warren he was transferred to the frigate Java. After four years he returned to the United States ; and, owing to some difficulty with the captain of the Java, resigned his commission, though he was recognized by all who knew him as a brilliant and promising young officer. Captain William L. Hudson, of the Navy, in a letter to the writer, says :

“It affords me very great pleasure to say that your brother Timothy was a midshipman and shipmate of mine some three years in the Mediterranean, in the United States ship Warren, then under the command of the present Commodores Kearney and Skinner. I have unfortunately lost my journals of that interesting cruise by shipwreck, or I could have furnished you with many recorded anecdotes of your brother, (Tim Field, as he was familiarly called by his messmates.) Suffice it to say, that he was exceedingly ‘clever,’ in the English acceptation of that term, and the very life and soul of the ship. He was brave to a fault, and always ready to do ‘with a will’ any duty assigned him. I looked upon him at that time as an officer of great promise, and well calculated to earn a name and reputation that would have been no less gratifying to the Navy than to his family and friends.”



After leaving the Navy, he made a voyage around the world in a merchant ship. He returned in 1836, and soon embarked again for South America, and is supposed to have been lost in the Gulf of Mexico. A monument was erected to his memory by his brothers, in the graveyard at Stockbridge.

MATTHEW D. FIELD has been a manufacturer and an engineer. For many years he was extensively engaged in the manufacture of paper, at Lee, Mass. In 1843 he removed to St. Louis, Mo., and for eleven years after resided at the West and South, where he was a contractor upon railroads, and constructed several large suspension bridges. One of these is at Nashville, Tennessee, where it spans the river Cumberland, stretching from a high cliff on one side to an almost equally

solid mass of masonry on the other. Its elevation is 110 feet above the water, and it leaps the chasm in a single span of 656 feet. The whole length of the bridge, including the embankments, is 1,956 feet. Being suspended in the air, it has an appearance of extreme lightness, but it is at the same time built of great strength, being calculated to bear the enormous weight of 2,400 tons. This work was followed by another of similar character at Clarksville, Tenn., and still later by another at Frankfort, Kentucky, constructed of such strength and solidity as to bear the passage of railroad trains. Since his return from the South he has been much in Newfoundland, engaged in the construction of the line of telegraph across that island. He now resides at Southwick, Mass. In 1856 he was chosen a member of the Senate of Massachusetts for Hampden county.

He was married to Clarissa Laffin, of Southwick, Oct. 6th, 1836. They have had seven children :

Heman Laffin Field,	born	Sept. 11,	1837.
Catherine	“	“	Sept. 13, 1840.
Henry Martyn	“	“	Sept. 1, 1842.
Wells Laffin,	“	“	Jan. 31, 1846.
A son, which died soon		April 24,	1848.
Clara	“	“	March 15, 1851.
Matthew Dickinson	“	July 19,	1853.

JONATHAN E. FIELD was graduated at Williams College in 1832, and studied law in the office of his brother, David Dudley Field, in New York. He removed to Michigan in 1833, and was admitted to the bar at Monroe, in that State, in 1834, and practised law at Ann Arbor until 1836, when he was elected clerk of the courts of Washtenaw county. He was one of the Secretaries of the Convention which accepted the Act of Congress for the admission of Michigan into the Union as a State. Returning to Massachusetts in 1839, he has since continued to reside in Stockbridge. In 1854 he was a member of the Senate of Massachusetts for the county of Berkshire. The same year he was appointed by Governor

Washburn, under an act of the legislature, one of a commission to prepare and report a plan for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of Massachusetts. His associates in that commission were Chief Justice Williams and Judge Aiken. The Legislature of Massachusetts are now revising the Laws in conformity with the plan by them reported. He was married to Mary Ann Stuart, of Stockbridge, May 18, 1835. They had five children :

Emilia Brewer Field, born June 19, 1836.

Jonathan Edwards, jr. " Sept. 15, 1838.

Mary Stuart, " July 18, 1841.

Stephen Dudley " Jan. 31, 1846.

Sarah Adele " Oct. 8, 1849.

died Aug. 6, 1850.

Mrs. Field died Oct. 14, 1849, aged 34, and Mr. Field was married to Mrs. Huldah Fellowes Pomeroy, widow of Theodore S. Pomeroy, Esq., Oct. 17, 1850.

The eldest daughter, Emilia, was married, Oct. 4, 1856, to William Ashburner, of Stockbridge, a chemist and engineer, who was educated at the Ecole des Mines, in Paris. They have one son :

Burnet Ashburner, born at Stockbridge, March 20, 1858.

The eldest son, Jonathan, was married to Henrietta Goodrich, of Stockbridge, Oct. 31, 1859.

STEPHEN J. FIELD, while yet a boy, enjoyed the opportunity of seeing foreign countries. At the age of thirteen he sailed for Smyrna with Mr. and Mrs. Brewer, and spent three years in the East. He returned in the fall of 1832, and the following year entered Williams College, from which he was graduated in 1837, with the highest honors of his class. He read law chiefly with his brother, David Dudley Field, in New York, and on admission to the bar, became his partner, and thus continued till the spring of 1848, when he went abroad and spent a winter in Paris, and the summer following in travelling on the Continent. On his return, in the fall of 1849, he went to California, where he has ever since resided. He arrived in San Francisco in December, and soon after settled in the place

now covered by the city of Marysville. In January, 1850, he was elected First Alcalde of the city, and held that office until the organization of the judiciary under the constitution of the State. Although the jurisdiction of the Alcalde courts under the Mexican law was limited and inferior, yet in the then existing state of things in California, unlimited jurisdiction, civil and criminal, was asserted and exercised by them.

In October, 1850, Mr. Field was elected to the Legislature, and during the session of 1851 was an active member of that body. He introduced and succeeded in getting passed the several laws concerning the judiciary, and regulating the procedure, civil and criminal, in all the courts of the State. These laws, with some amendments, principally suggested and drawn by himself, are still in force.



In 1857 he was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of California for six years, from January 1, 1858. A vacancy occurring previous to the commencement of his term, by the appointment of Judge Burnet in the place of the late Chief Justice Murray, he was appointed to fill the vacancy, and accordingly took his seat on the bench October 13, 1857. He is now Chief Justice of the State.

Mr. Field was married in San Francisco, June 2d, 1859, to Sue Virginia Swearingen, daughter of the late Richard S. Swearingen, of St. Louis, Mo.

CYRUS W. FIELD, in American phrase, "began life" very young. All his education he received in the common schools and the Academy of Stockbridge. At the age of fifteen he left his father's roof for New York, where he has resided for just a quarter of a century. As he was destined to the calling of a merchant, he entered as a clerk in the well-known house of A. T. Stewart & Co. At twenty-one he was married, and settled in business as a wholesale paper merchant, to which he devoted himself closely for a dozen years following, interrupted only by a visit to Europe in 1849, and a summer's tour through the South and West in 1851.

Having been very successful in business, he would have retired on the 1st of January, 1853, had not the solicitations of his junior

partners induced him to remain at the head of the firm. But in order to withdraw as much as possible from its active duties, he left for South America, and spent six months in travelling across that continent. Landing in New Granada, he ascended the Magdalena River 600 miles, and then commenced a journey of over four months on the backs of mules ; ascending the vast table-lands to the capital, Bogota, and crossing the Andes to Quito ; thence descending to the Pacific coast, and returning by the Isthmus of Panama. He was accompanied by the distinguished landscape painter, Mr. F. E. Church, who, as the fruit of his journey, brought back a portfolio of sketches of the sublime mountain scenery, which he has since produced on canvas, in his views of Cotopaxi and the Falls of Tequendama, both painted for Mr. Field, and in his Heart of the Andes,

and other South American scenes. Mr. Field returned near the close of October, 1853, just in time to attend the Golden Wedding of his parents, which was celebrated with great rejoicing on the last day of that month.

It was three or four months after this, in February, 1854, that he was first led to conceive the project of telegraphic communication across the Atlantic Ocean. As this has since become a practical reality, and the subject of universal attention, it is important to record the private history of the enterprise.

The idea first suggested itself to him in consequence of an application which was made to him, through his brother Matthew, for aid in resuscitating a company, called The Newfoundland Electric Telegraph Company, which had tried, though unsuccessfully, to build a line of telegraph to Newfoundland. That project had been to carry a line East-

ward along the American coast, from the British provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to St. John's, in Newfoundland. This being more than a third of the way from New York to Europe, that plan contemplated a connection at that point with a line of fast steam-ships, which could make the trip to Ireland in six or seven days, and thus the time of communication with Europe would be brought within a week. The work had been begun, but had not gone far before it broke down from mismanagement and lack of means. What was now asked, was somebody to take the old company's charter, pay off the debts, put in more capital, and push the work to successful completion.

This was the task proposed to Mr. Field. Before he entered into it, he studied carefully on the globe the coast of America and Europe, and then it was that the project took in his mind much larger proportions. He saw that

it would not do to limit the enterprise to the American coast and Newfoundland, but that means must be found to pass the Ocean itself. He consulted men of science, such as Prof. Morse and Lieut. Maury, to know if this were possible ; and being assured that it *might be*, he thenceforth devoted his whole energies to carrying it out. In considering this project, he first took counsel with his brother Dudley, and the two ever after acted in consultation and concert. He then proposed the matter to his next-door neighbor, Peter Cooper, a citizen well known for his great wealth and benevolence, who listened to it with favor. He next proposed it to Moses Taylor, a large capitalist, by whom in turn it was proposed to Marshall O. Roberts, the well-known steamship owner. These gentlemen, together with the late Chandler White, a retired merchant of great intelligence—six in all—composed

the whole association, as it was at first organized. It was soon after joined by Professor S. F. B. Morse, the inventor of the magnetic telegraph, and a year or two later by Mr. John W. Brett, of London, who is well known in connection with nearly all the submarine telegraphs of Europe.

The first step was to obtain a new charter. The company could not work under the old charter, and would not embark in the enterprise, until assured of protection and support from the government of Newfoundland. Accordingly Mr. Field, with his brother Dudley and Mr. White, were deputed to proceed to St. John's, to negotiate with the colonial government.

The writer well remembers the cold night in March '54, on which they passed through Springfield on their way to Boston, where they embarked the next day for Halifax and

St. John's. Mr. Field returned in two or three weeks to charter a steamer, and send down men to commence the work, while his brother Dudley and Mr. White remained six weeks to complete the negotiation. The result was a new charter, under the name of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, granting them the exclusive right, for fifty years, to land a cable on the shores of Newfoundland, or its dependency, Labrador, and a grant of fifty square miles of land, together with a subsidy in money, as soon as the line should be extended to St. John's, and an equal grant of land when it should be carried across the ocean.

Then began the labor of carrying out this gigantic project. The whole enterprise was to be organized ; large sums of money were to be raised and expended ; and to do this required immense labor in planning as well



as in executing the details. At this time the project was new ; no attempt was made to bring it before the public ; no stock was offered in market, but whatever burden was to be borne, these few men took upon their own shoulders. All the paying, as well as the planning, was done by them alone, without asking aid from anybody. All the meetings were held at Mr. Field's house, and he was from the first the active manager of the whole concern. How much time and thought and labor were thus given to the maturing of this great enterprise, none but his family will ever know. For weeks and months it was hardly possible to go to his house of an evening without finding the library occupied by the telegraph company. Whenever there was any work to be done, he was the man to do it. If one of the directors was to go to Newfound-

land or to England, he was the one to go. Thus it continued for four years.

Meanwhile, the work was prosecuted with energy. The first great stride towards Europe, was to reach the cliffs of Newfoundland. This alone was an immense undertaking. From New York to St. John's, as the line runs, is a distance of a little over 1,700 miles. There were existing lines belonging to other companies as far East as Port Hood in Cape Breton. But there were still 140 miles of road to be cut across the island of Cape Breton, and 400 miles across Newfoundland, both through an almost uninhabited wilderness, along which the telegraph wires could be laid, and these were to be connected by a submarine cable across the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But the work was pushed on rapidly. About six hundred laborers were employed to open the road and construct the line, and the com-

pany looked forward to opening the whole line in the summer of 1855. In anticipation of this, Mr. Field went to England in January previous, to order a submarine cable, which was sent out in August, and the steamship James Adger sailed from New York to aid in laying it across the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This first attempt was unsuccessful; the cable was broken in a gale, and the completion of the line had to be deferred till another year. Again Mr. Field went to England, and ordered another cable, which was sent out the following summer, and successfully laid in July, 1856. In prospect of such a result, he had applied to the American government for a ship to make soundings across the Atlantic, from Newfoundland to Ireland, along the proposed track of an ocean telegraph, in which he was warmly seconded by Lieut. Maury, of the Observatory at Washington.

Accordingly the United States steamer Arctic, under the command of Captain Berryman, was immediately despatched on this ocean survey. She sailed from New York July 18, 1856, and the very next day Mr. Field embarked with his family for England, where he remained through the summer and autumn. The result of this visit was the organization of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, which was undertaken by him, in connection with Mr. John W. Brett, Sir Charles Bright, as engineer, and Prof. Whitehouse, as electrician. When the plans were matured, Mr. Field applied to the British government for aid, which responded in the most generous manner, offering to guarantee £14,000 a year for the transmission of the government messages, and to aid its execution by government ships. He then visited Liverpool and Manchester, in company with Mr. Brett, where he addressed

public meetings, explaining the enterprise, and seeking to obtain subscriptions; the result of which was, that in twenty days from the time the books were opened, the whole stock was subscribed. Mr. Field subscribed £100,000, and in the allotment of shares, was allotted £88,000. He remained in London until the company was completely organized by the choice of directors, and the next day sailed for America, which he reached on Christmas Day, 1856.

But he had yet no rest. In less than a week he started off again for Newfoundland, to obtain some additional legislation, in which he was successful. He returned the latter part of January, and the next day left for Washington, to obtain from the American government the same aid which the English had so freely accorded. Here he remained some weeks, until the bill was passed by both

houses of Congress, and signed by President Pierce, on the 3d of March, the day before he went out of office. A fortnight after Mr. Field sailed for England, where he remained but a few weeks, and then returned to America, but again in July he went back to England to join the expedition to lay the cable across the Atlantic. The result is well known. The English and American ships sailed together from Ireland, and when about 350 miles from the coast, the cable broke from the stern of the Niagara, and the expedition was obliged to return to Plymouth. Mr. Field went to London, and remained till arrangements were completed for a new attempt the following year, and then returned to America in October.

In January, '58, he again went to England, to renew the attempt of the previous year. He was immediately and unanimously

chosen the general manager of the company, with control of all the officers, and a salary of £1,000 till the expedition had accomplished its work. He accepted the task, but declined any compensation, beyond the payment of his expenses.

The second expedition sailed from Plymouth, June 10, 1858, but met with a series of disasters. A terrific gale arose, which swept the Atlantic for eight days, so that the *Agamemnon* was in great danger of being lost. It was near two weeks before the ships reached mid-ocean, and then the cable broke three times, once after running out 300 miles, and finally the expedition returned to Ireland.

A third attempt met with a better fate. Sailing again from Queenstown, the ships once more rendezvoused in mid-ocean, and turned their prows towards the Old and the New World. No break occurred, and on the

5th of August, 1858, the two ends were safely landed—one in Valentia Bay, Ireland, and the other in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland.

None who were in America at the time can forget the electric thrill that ran through the country at the news of this great success. Everywhere the tidings were hailed with acclamations. Cannon were fired and bells were rung from one end of the land to the other. The first message which passed between the two hemispheres, was a message of peace : “Europe and America are united by telegraph. Glory to God in the highest ; on earth, peace, good will to men !” This was followed by the message of the Queen to the President, which was responded to in the city of New York by an illumination. The return of the Niagara was like the return of a conqueror after a victory. Mr. Field was welcomed with unbounded enthusiasm. The



city gave him and his associates a public reception and a banquet, while gold boxes and medals were showered upon him and the leading officers of the expedition.

Four years and a half of his life had been wholly devoted to the accomplishment of this great work. In his voyages to Newfoundland and to England on this business, he had crossed the sea twenty-four times. He had undertaken it in the face of obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and persevered against repeated defeats. Thus he had at least deserved success.

The public enthusiasm was suddenly checked by the communication over the cable being interrupted within a month after it was stretched from shore to shore. But though this suspension stilled the popular shout, yet in the minds of all thoughtful men the triumph was not less signal and com-

plete. An immense step had been gained. The scientific problem was resolved. The further execution of the work is only a question of time. The part he has borne in the first bold attempt, cannot be lessened, however many may follow where he has led the way.

Mr. Field was married to Mary Bryan Stone, of Guilford, Conn., Dec. 2, 1840. They have had seven children :

Mary Grace Field,	born Oct. 10, 1841.
Alice Durand	“ Nov. 7, 1843.
Isabella	“ Jan. 27, 1846.
Fanny Griswold	“ Nov. 20, 1848.
Arthur Stone	“ Jan. 24, 1850.
	died Aug. 20, 1854.
Edward Morse	born July 4, 1855.
Cyrus William,	“ March 15, 1857.

HENRY M. FIELD, after studying at the academies in Stockbridge and Lenox, entered Williams College at the age of twelve, was graduated at sixteen, and immediately after began the study of theology at the Seminary at East Windsor, Conn., then under the presidency of Dr. Tyler, the champion of Old School Divinity in New England. He was licensed to preach at eighteen, but continued through the whole course at the Seminary, and afterwards spent a fourth year at the Divinity School in New Haven, attending the lectures of Dr. N. W. Taylor, the leader of the New School. In the summer of 1842 he was invited to the Third Presbyterian Church, of St. Louis, Mo., where, after preaching eight months, he was settled as pastor, April 11, 1843, when he was just twenty-one. He

remained in St. Louis nearly five years, a period of much interest to him, as it made him familiar with the great West, from the frequent excursions which he took up the rivers Mississippi and Missouri, through the interior of the State, and into the Indian country, now occupied by the territory of Kansas. In his travels to and from the East, he visited every one of the United States, except Texas and Florida. He had the satisfaction of seeing established a prosperous church, with a beautiful house of worship. Having accomplished this, he resigned his charge to go abroad. The summer of 1847 he spent in Great Britain, visiting not only different parts of England, but spending many weeks in the Isle of Wight, among the mountains of Wales, the Highlands of Scotland, and in the north of Ireland. The winter following he passed in Paris, where he was a

witness of the French Revolution of 1848, a full account of which he wrote at the time for the New York Observer. He was a correspondent of this paper all the time that he was abroad, and a large number of his letters are scattered through its files for 1847 and '48. Leaving Paris for Italy, he saw the spread of the revolution throughout the Peninsula, of which he afterwards published an historical sketch in the New Englander. Thence he proceeded to Switzerland and the Rhine, returning to Paris a few days after the bloody Insurrection of June,

Returning to America in the autumn, he published a Letter from Rome, on the "Good and the Bad in the Roman Catholic Church," which provoked a good deal of criticism, as being too favorable to the Catholics. Soon after, an acquaintance with the families of the Irish exiles residing in New York led him

to study the history of the Rebellion of 1798, and finally to write a book upon it, which was entitled "The Irish Confederates," and was published by the Harpers. In January, 1851, he was settled at West Springfield, Mass. While here he published three sermons in the *National Preacher*, and an article in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* on the Humane Features of the Hebrew Law. In November, 1854, he removed to New York, to become one of the editors of the "Evangelist," a religious journal of that city. In 1858 he visited Europe again, with his wife, extending his former tour to Holland, Denmark, Prussia, Austria, and Northern Italy, which he described in a volume entitled "Summer Pictures from Copenhagen to Venice."

He was married in New York, May 20, 1851, to Henriette des Portes, a native of Paris.

MARY E. FIELD, the youngest of the family, after enjoying such advantages of education as Stockbridge afforded, was sent to the Female Academy in Albany, where she remained for several years, and took a high rank both as a scholar and writer, bearing off the first prizes in composition, and graduating with great honor in 1840. Many of her compositions were published in the Albany journals and in different Magazines. The last day of 1848, she sailed for Europe, and joined her brother Stephen, then in Paris, where they passed the winter together. In May '49, her brother Cyrus and his wife came out and joined them, and the party spent the summer in travelling on the Continent. During her stay abroad she was a regular correspondent of the New York Observer. Her letters from

Paris, Vienna and Rome, are full of the Revolutions then in progress in Hungary and Italy.

She was married to Joseph Frederic Stone, the brother-in-law and partner in business of her brother Cyrus, June 16, 1852. The marriage took place at the old homestead in Stockbridge, and was celebrated with much rejoicing. Never did two persons start on the road of married life with fairer prospects of happiness. These prospects were soon overcast. In January, 1854, Mr. Stone began to suffer from bleeding at the lungs, and on the 17th of May, less than two years from that bright wedding day, he breathed his last. His remains were brought to Stockbridge, from which he had departed with such joy and hope, and laid in the graveyard. From that time his wife was never well again. Though she tried to rally her spirits for the sake of her child, she gradually declined. In July,



1856, she took a voyage to Europe with her brother Cyrus's family, in the hope of restoring her health. She enjoyed the summer in England, especially a few weeks spent in the Isle of Wight. But in Paris, the very day after a visit to Versailles, in which she seemed full of life and spirit, she was suddenly taken more ill, and died in that city, Oct. 22, 1856. Her remains were brought back to America and laid beside those of her husband.

They left one child, who bears his father's name :

Joseph Frederic Stone, born Jan. 8, 1854.

Thus of this large family, whose different lines are here traced, the last one is an orphan. For that reason he is, even more than others, tenderly loved. All the affection which was felt for his youthful parents is now lavished upon his childish head. He is a link to bind

together the living and the dead ; to unite in heart those who are still full of life, bearing an active part in the world's affairs, with those silent and sainted forms that have passed within the veil.

As the family began early to disperse—the sons having to make their own way in the world—it has been but twice in later years that all could meet. Once was at the Golden Wedding, Oct. 31, 1853. Fifty years before the young minister and his wife started on the journey of life together. Since that time they had had born unto them ten children, of whom nine had grown to man's estate, and eight still lived. All were now settled in life, and all were prosperous. Most of them had children of their own, so that with sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, the whole household numbered forty-one. As the

dear old parents were still living and in good health, their children felt that this anniversary could not be passed without an appropriate celebration. Accordingly, the absent ones hastened home: Matthew with his family from Kentucky, and Cyrus from South America. When they assembled, but one son was wanting, Stephen, who was detained in California, and one grandson, Fisk P. Brewer, then in Wisconsin. Of the scenes of that family gathering we cannot speak—of the early recollections revived; the brotherly and sisterly affections interchanged; of the sweet domestic intercourse, and the united devotion when the Patriarch of this large household prayed that He who had been their Protector, would still be “a God to his children, and to their seed after them, unto the latest generation.”

When the family thus met, all were in perfect health. There had not been a death of an adult member for many years. But

this circle was not to remain much longer unbroken. In less than one year from that happy day, two who mingled in these scenes, were borne to their rest in the village graveyard—Mr. Stone, and Arthur, then the only son of Cyrus W. Field, a bright and intelligent boy of four and a half years. Two years later, Mary, the wife of Mr. Stone, died in Paris.

Thus, when the family came together again six years later, in 1859, it was with sadness mingled with joy. The occasion was the return of Stephen, who had just been married in California, and who came with his wife to visit his parents. The meeting again took place at Stockbridge, August 15. This time all were present who were living. The circle now included two great grandchildren, and all together numbered forty-six. After three days spent as before, the family parted once more—probably never all to meet thus again.

Though the members of this family have been very widely scattered, yet all recognize Stockbridge as the Family Home. There three of the children were born, and all passed much of their early life ; and there two, the only living sister, Emilia, and one brother, Jonathan, still reside with their families, and another, Dudley, has his summer home. And more than all, there the aged parents still live in the old homestead, enjoying the tranquil evening of their days, surrounded by the affection and respect of their children, and a gratitude that never forgets what those parents have done for them, and that tries in some measure to return what it can never fully repay, but that finds its purest gratification in ministering to their comfort and happiness. Long may it be before their sun shall set !

Whatever success has attended this family, has been due—not to inherited wealth, nor to the smiles of fortune, but rather to the hard struggles of early life, and to the virtuous principles which the children learned from their parents. They had always before them an example of manly integrity and heroic industry in that strict Puritan whom they revered as their father, while from their mother they received the gift of an elasticity of temper that never yielded to discouragement, a spirit of fortitude and perseverance, and boundless hope. May they never dishonor those parents by an unworthy family pride, or expect to keep an honorable position in the world in any other way than by the exercise of the same virtues by which it was obtained !

In the burying-ground near the village church, on a gentle slope of ground, looking up

to the hills "all around our vale," is a spot enclosed for the last resting-places of the members of this family. There they hope, when life's work is done, may be gathered the precious dust of their kindred. As each in his turn is borne to his long home, may it be with no bitter regrets for a life ill-spent, but with peace and thanksgiving for a useful and honored career, and when beneath a group of mounds, all who are now living are laid to rest, may it be said of them with truth,

*They were lovely and pleasant in their lives,  
And in death they were not divided.*

11













